teachers, vocational guidance instructors, physical education teachers, language teachers librarians or equivalent teaching posts carrying any other designation.

Hunger strike by the Karamchari Sangh in Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Nursing College, Delhi

2911. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers belonging to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Nursing College Karamchari Sangh, Delhi was on a 48 hour relay hunger-strike from 7th March,1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.

(b) According to the information received 3 employees sat on relay strike for 48 hours.

(c) The demands are being looked into.

Renaming of Kerala Express

2912. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to rename Kerala Express as Kerala Mangla Express from May onwards;

(b) whether the capacity to the Mangalore side also will be increased alongwtih; and

(c) if not, what is the purpose of changing the name of the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The capacity for Mangalore side passengers has already been increased since October, 1987.

Himsagar Express

2913. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to restore Himsagar Express between Jammu Tawi and Kanyakumari from May, 1988 which had been cancelled last October; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Himsagar Express was cancelled in the process of making Kerala Express a daily service. It has now been decided to provide a direct weekly train between Jammu Tawi and Kanyakumari by extending 17/18 Jammu Tawi-Madras Express to Kanyakumari. It will be called the Himsagar Express.

Night Blindness in Rajasthan and Gujarat

2914. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vitamin A deficiency in Rajasthan and Gujarat specially due to drought and famine has led to an epidemic of night blindness affecting over 50 per cent people in rural areas and if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken; and

(b) whether any voluntary Health Association has also drawn Government's attention to this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Drought and famine among other

things, contribute to Vitamin 'A' deficiency leading to night blindness. According to a random survey conducted by ICMR, in Rajasthan and Gujarat 13.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively the pre-school children suffer from night blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency. The Voluntary Health Association has conducted a survey in Rajasthan only and that too has covered only one village. The corrective steps taken by the Government include, extensive Health education, additional supply of Vitamin 'A' and continuous monitoring of the drought situation both at the State and Central level. The programme of Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency started in the IV Five Year Plan is being continued with progressively increasing coverage of children in the age group of 1—5 years.

Grievances of Porters

2915. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Delhi Railway Licence Porters Union' Delhi, has served a notice dated the 23rd February, 1988 regarding their grievances;

(b) if so, what are the details of their demands;

(c) what action has been taken in this regard;

(d) the outcome thereto;

(e) whether Government has discussed with the representatives of these porters/coolies; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A representation dated 23rd February, 1988 addressed to Shri Ram Naresh Khushwaha, MP has been forwarded by Hon'ble Home Minister to the Minister of State (Railways).

(b) The demands include:—

(i) Protection against atrocities by the GRP staff on licensed porters.

(ii) Licensed porters be given the status of a railway employee.

(iii) Porterage rates be increased.

(iv) Provision of rest shelters for licensed porters at stations.

(v) Discharged licensed porters be reinstated.

(vi) Facility of transfer of licence badge of porters to anyone.

(vii) Prevention of entry of unauthorised porters into railway stations/premises.

(c) and (d) The demands have been examined and the reply is under issue.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Delivery Rooms at Railway Stations

2916. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations which have delivery rooms, zonewise;

(b) the number of railway stations which are to be provided this facility during the next three years; and

(c) the total earnings of Railways through this head in delivery rooms from April 1986 to February 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There are no "delivery rooms" as such at railway stations.